LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh

†3955. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for establishing LPT/VLPT in Himachal Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the number of LPT/VLPT actually established; and

(b) the target fixed for Tenth Five Year Plan in this regard and the details of the efforts being made to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Twenty two transmitter projects (HPT-1, LPTs-3, VLPTs-18) were targeted to be completed in Himachal Pradesh during Ninth Five Year Plan. Out of these, 19 transmitter projects (HPT-1, LPTs-3, VLPTs-15) were completed and commissioned during the Ninth Plan period. Subsequently, installation of 2 more VLPTs has been completed during 2002-03. The remaining one VLPT is expected to be installed during 2003-04.

(b) Schemes for establishment of two HPTs at Dharamshala and Kasauli (DD2) have been sanctioned, as part of new Tenth Plan schemes. Site for HPT Dharamshala has been taken over. Transmitter equipment for Kasauli has been ordered.

Implementation of the CAS

3956. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have not so far taken any decision on key issues relating to Conditional Access System;

(b) if so, whether number of cable operators have placed order for the set-top boxes;

(c) whether Government have set deadline of 14th July for the implementation of the Conditional Access System;

(d) if so, whether any steps in this regard have been taken; and

(e) If so, whether the deadline set up for this will be fully adhered to?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) In excercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4A of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has notified the 15th day of January, 2003 as the date within six months from which, it shall be obligatory for every cable operator to transmit/re-transmit programmes of every pay channel through an addressable system in the four metro cities namely, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi. Thereafter, a set top box will be required to view the pay channels and not for free-to-air channels.

(e) There is no proposal to extend the deadline for implementation of the Conditional Access System in the four metro cities.

FDI for Films Division

3957. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Films Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government realize the potential of improving the standard of Films Division by opening FDI to convert it into an international film organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Films Division is a subordinate office of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and functions as regular Government organization. Therefore, no FDI in Films Division is envisaged. Films Division already has an international profile in that it conducts the biennial Mumbai International Films Festival (MIFF), widely recognized as among the best documentary/short films festivals in the world. Films Division has also made a number of features which have gained the acceptance of foreign audiences.